

James - Living Out Your Faith
“A Life Of Prayer”
James 5: 13-20

The Prayer of Faith

¹³Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

¹⁷Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.

¹⁸Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. ¹⁹My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

(James 5:13-20 NIV)

James 5:13-20

Questions for personal or small group study and reflection:

1. In what areas of life are we to involve God? Why would He want to be involved in our joys as well as our sorrows? What are we acknowledging about God when we pray and praise?
 2. Besides private prayer, what other resource do we have? (v.14) Who initiates the action? What is the prerequisite to answered prayer, including the prayer for healing (James 4:15; 1 John 5:14-15)?
 3. When we have sinned and need to be healed spiritually as well as physically, what can we do? (v.16) What spiritual (and sometimes physical) effects come from our neglect to admit our sins?
 4. What kind of person must we be in order to have a powerful and effective prayer life? What does the word “righteous” mean? (A description of it can be found in Eph. 4:25-32)
 5. If a fellow believer begins to fall away from the Lord, who is responsible to bring him back? What hope is there for the repentant Christian? (James 5:20; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 103) Think of someone you know who needs to be brought back to the Lord and spend some time praying for him or her.
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